

GOLDEN GUARDIAN



The 2008 Golden Guardian Exercise was a Statewide Disaster Scenario based on a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the southern section of the San Andreas Fault coordinated by the Office of Emergency Services. The San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA) 2008 Golden Guardian (GG08) Exercise preparation activities began in early 2007.

This "EOC Centric" exercise was expected to run from November 13, 2008, to November 18, 2008, but on Nov. 15, the Freeway Complex Fires broke out and both state and local Recovery activities for Nov. 17 and 18 were canceled.

The first two days of the exercise were a bustling success with almost 200 players and visitors in the EOC each day to exercise eight objectives including mass care and shelter, communications, restoration of lifelines, EOC management, economic and community recovery, medical surge, public safety and security, and emergency public information. Public Information Officers from around the region crowded into one of the Department's mobile command vehicles to form a Joint Information Center for the exercise.

Multiple federal, state and local agencies as well as all 43 County Departments and all 24 Cities and Towns in San Bernardino County participated in some form.

OES used the County's WebEOC Crisis Management program, which provides a common operating picture and real-time situational awareness for all County/Operational Area EOCs and Department Operation Centers (DOCs).

Several Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) around the area also participated in Golden Guardian and the communities of Wrightwood, San Antonio Heights and Phelan/Pinon Hills each held exercises.

Simultaneously, OES coordinated a extensive public preparedness outreach effort in partnership with the Great Southern California ShakeOut where more than half a million San Bernardino County residents registered to participate.

The ShakeOut Drill turned out to be the largest earthquake preparedness event in U.S. history. The earthquake scenario is a realistic portrayal of what would happen to this region in a major earthquake, and promoted the need for earthquake awareness and preparedness for the 22 million residents of southern California. On the day of the ShakeOut, 5.47 million people participated from eight southern California counties in the "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill. San Bernardino County was a major player in the ShakeOut, offering events countywide, with the San Bernardino County Museum providing the main event on the day of the ShakeOut.

First District Supervisor and California Seismic Safety Commissioner Brad Mitzelfelt led the ShakeOut effort in San Bernardino County and together with County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer engaged schools, community groups as well as all 43 County departments and 19,000-plus County employees with the goal of encouraging residents around the County to prepare for an eventual earthquake in our region.

Golden Guardian (Continued)

The Great Southern California Shake Out

Golden Guardian By the Numbers

17 – Total months of planning

4 – San Bernardino County Operational Area Planning Conferences conducted and/or planned

40 – Hours of GECO Training and Exercise Meetings

260 – Participants in the WebEOC Dress Rehearsal

76 – People trained in the use of WebEOC at September EOC training sessions

85 – Hours of Working Group/Core Planner Meetings

108 –Golden Guardian Correspondences

150 – Average attendance for OA Planning Conferences

250,000 – ShakeOut Fliers printed by OES to promote preparedness

19,000 + -- County employees who received information about the ShakeOut

15,000 – Number of Fliers distributed to promote the Preparedness Events

502,035 – San Bernardino County residents registered in the Great Southern California ShakeOut

